

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00879 091730Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 EUR-12 DHA-02 IO-10 /104 W

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R 091425Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3776

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0879

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF ECONOMY CASTIGATES LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

1. WIDE CIRCULATION IS BEING GIVEN TO WHAT IS CLAIMED TO BE A LETTER FROM THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT; MINISTER OF ECONOMY, VASCO VIEIRA DE ALMEIDA, TO THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AND THE PRESIDENTS OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN WHICH ALMEIDA ATTACKS THE INEPTITUDE OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND IMPLICITLY THREATENS TO RESIGN IF THE SITUATION IS NOT REMEDIED AND ALMEIDA'S ECONOMIC PLAN GIVEN EFFECTIVE SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS INITIAL SPECULATION THAT THE LETTER WAS NOT GENUINE, ALMEIDA DECLINED TO DENY HIS AUTHORSHIP WHEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO BY LOCAL JOURNALISTS. A JOURNALIST TOLD ME THAT ALMEIDA PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGED AUTHORSHIP.

2. THE LETTER IS AN ACCURATE IF NOT ORIGINAL CATALOG OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURES TO SOLVE ANY OF THE COUNTRY'S GRAVE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS' DISINCLINATION TO CEASE KILLING EACH OTHER AND INNOCENT BYSTANDERS AND INSTEAD COOPERATE FOR THE GOOD OF ANGOLA. ALMEIDA CREDITS THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH NO ACCOMPLISHMENTS, NO WILL OR ABILITY TO ACT AND A PENCHANT
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PAGE 02 LUANDA 00879 091730Z

FOR IGNORING ITS OWN RULES AND ALLOWING ITS MEMBERS TO ACT IN

A PARTISAN MANNER. HE ACCUSES THE MOVEMENTS OF WISHING TO DESTROY ANGOLAN SOCIETY TO BE ABLE TO BUILD ANEW WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE SUFFERING THIS WILL ENTAIL. DEFENDING PORTUGAL AGAINST CHARGES THAT SHE IS TRYING TO IMPOSE A FORM OF NEO-COLONIALISM ON ANGOLA, ALMEIDA HURLS THAT CHARGE BACK ON "CERTAIN ANGOLANS." FINALLY, HE NOTES THAT HIS ECONOMIC PLAN HAS BEEN BOYCOTTED AT VARIOUS LEVELS WITHIN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND STRONGLY HINTS AT HIS RESIGNATION IF IT IS NOT IMPLEMENTED.

3. THE MINISTER CLAIMS THAT HIS PLAN WAS APPROVED BY NOT ONLY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BUT ALSO BY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THAT APPARENTLY WAS NOT THE CASE, HOWEVER, SINCE AT THE TIME THERE WERE REPORTS THAT BOTH FNLA AND UNITA LEADERSHIP WERE NOT AT ALL IN AGREEMENT WITH WHAT THEY CONSIDER THE STRONG LEFT TILT OF THE PLAN (LUANDA 0635). AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING HIS PLAN, ALMEIDA WAS JOINED ONLY BY REPRESENTATIVES OF MPLA.

4. THE LETTER APPEARS TO BE A PLOY TO GAIN ALMEIDA MORE POWER AND IT IS PROBABLE THE PLAN HAD THE CONCURRENCE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHO IS CLOSE TO ALMEIDA. HOWEVER, ALMEIDA'S MOVE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY DOOMED TO FAIL FOR THE VERY REASONS HIS LETTER HIGHLIGHTS, THE VIOLENT RIVALRY BETWEEN THE LIBERATION GROUPS.

5. AT ONE POINT ALMEIDA SEEMS TO ADMIT THE TRUTH OF A COGENT CRITICISM OF HIS ECONOMIC PROGRAM, THAT INSTEAD OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NOT READILY SUSCEPTIBLE TO IMPLEMENTATION AT THIS TIME, NEEDED INSTEAD ARE A SERIES OF EMERGENCY STOPGAP MEASURES TO HALT THE ACCELERATING DECLINE OF ANGOLA'S ONCE IMPRESSIVE ECONOMY. HE ADMITS, HOWEVER, - AND ACCURATELY - THAT EVEN THIS PATH IS CLOSED IN THE FACE OF PERSISTENT VIOLENCE.

6. A TRANSLATION OF ALMEIDA'S LETTER IS BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT.
KILLORAN

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Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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